

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): Richard D. Gresham et al. EXAMINER: Michael G. Mendoza  
SERIAL NO.: 10/720,510 GROUP: 3734  
FILED: November 24, 2003 DATED: August 25, 2010  
TITLE: **SHEATH INTRODUCTION APPARATUS AND METHOD**

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Confirmation No.: 4596

**RESPONSE "G"**

Sir:

The present application has been reviewed in light of the non-Final Office Action mailed May 25, 2010.

Claims 1-26 and 31 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the present application in view of the present response is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 17-26 are allowed.

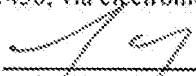
Claims 1, 3, 8-10, and 31 stand rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 7,449,011.

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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted on the date below with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, via electronic submission.

Dated: August 25, 2010

  
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Julie Yanopoulos